

5 We claim:

1. A transport device for lying transport of elongate meat products which are subjected to a processing, comprising at least one endless displacing member for advancing product carriers, which displacing member is advanced in a frame  
10 by means of a drive, characterized in that the endless displacing member is driven at least at two placed-apart positions and tensioning means for the displacing member are placed between the drives.

2. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,  
15 characterized in that the tensioning means are provided with detecting means for monitoring the functioning of the tensioning means, and the detecting means are connected to an adjacent drive along the displacing member for controlling the drive subject to the functioning of the tensioning means.

20 3. The transport device as claimed in claim 2,  
characterized in that the tensioning means are connected to the subsequent drive in the direction of transport of the displacing member.

4. The transport device as claimed in claim 2,  
25 characterized in that the transport device is provided with a central control of the drives, to which central control are connected the detecting means of the tensioning means.

5. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,  
30 characterized in that the tensioning means comprise a guide displaceable under bias for the displacing member, and the position of the displaceable guide is detected by means of a sensor.

- 5 6. The transport device as claimed in claim 5,  
characterized in that the sensor is an optical sensor.
7. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,  
characterized in that the displacing member is a chain.
- 10 8. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,  
characterized in that the transport device comprises at least  
two parallel running displacing members, wherein the product  
carriers are supported by a plurality of displacing members.
- 15 9. The transport device a claimed in claim 1, characterized  
in that product carriers comprised of elongate baskets are  
formed at least partly from a mesh material.
10. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,  
20 characterized in that the displacing member is displaceable  
in the frame rotatable guide means.
11. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,  
characterized in that the displacing member is moved in the  
25 frame such that the displacing member contains a plurality of  
parts running substantially parallel to each other, wherein  
adjacent parts move in opposite directions.
12. Transport device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in  
30 that the drive is a motor drive.
13. A transport device as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
in that the transport device is provided with warning means  
which is coupled to detecting means which is activated when a  
35 determined control limit of the tensioning means is exceeded.

5       14. A method for compensating length changes in a transport device having a tensioning means, a detecting means, a control drive, and a displacing member forming part of the transport device for elongate meat products, comprising the operating steps of:

- 10      a) monitoring the functioning of the tensioning means by means of the detecting means, and  
          b) controlling a derive, subject to the monitored functioning of the tensioning means, such that functioning of the tensioning means falls within a
- 15      determined control range.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that when the tensioning means exceeds a control limit, the detecting means generate a signal, on the basis of which the

20      length of the displacing member is adjusted.